



OLUMS

Intelligent Management
and Tracking Systems

How SACPO Digitised SETA Grant and Work-Integrated Learning Administration with OLUMS on AWS

The South African Public Colleges Organisation (SACPO) required a digital platform to manage learner funding, workplace attendance, stipend claims, progress evidence and reporting across public TVET programmes. Manual administration limited consolidated programme visibility and made audit preparation resource intensive.

OLUMS implemented its Grant Management and WIL platform on Amazon Web Services (AWS). The retained FoodBev programme report evidences 361 learner records, a R24,537,240 grant allocation and R11,543,000 in stipend value tracked through learner-level audit records.

Challenge

- Manual grant budgets, attendance, stipend and payroll processes
- Limited consolidated visibility of learner progress and exceptions
- 361 FoodBev learner records requiring structured oversight

Solution

- AWS-hosted SETA Grant Management and WIL platform
- Role-based learner, supervisor and grant-administration workflows
- Digital evidence, claims, approvals and executive reporting

Results

- 361 learner records represented in the retained audit report
- R11,543,000 in stipend value tracked at learner level
- 14 payroll batches covering 245 payment entries and R857,500



The Customer

SACPO supports South Africa's public Technical and Vocational Education and Training sector and coordinates initiatives involving workplace learning and SETA-funded learners.

The OLUMS agreement commenced on 1 January 2023. Production infrastructure was wound down in December 2024, followed by reporting, reconciliation and commercial close-out completed by 31 March 2025.



About OLUMS

Online University Management Systems (OLUMS) is an education technology company specialising in digital platforms for higher education and skills development. Founded in 2019, OLUMS designs systems that support academic operations, industry engagement, and regulatory compliance.

As an AWS Partner, OLUMS builds and operates its platforms on Amazon Web Services to meet the scalability, security, and reliability requirements of public sector and higher education institutions.



The Challenge: Moving Grant Administration Beyond Paper

SACPO coordinated learners, colleges, workplaces and SETA-funded programme requirements.

Manual Grant Processes

Paper and spreadsheets complicated budgets, attendance, stipend claims and payroll preparation.

Limited Oversight

Administrators needed consolidated progress, compliance and at-risk learner information.

Multi-Role Delivery

Learners, workplaces and programme administrators required a consistent, role-based digital process.

The Solution: A Digital Grant and WIL Operating Platform

OLUMS implemented its Grant Management and WIL platform on AWS.

Integrated Workflow

The solution supported:

- Grant budgets and learner and employer records
- Attendance, stipend claims and payroll preparation
- Progress monitoring, digital POE and executive reporting
- Defined roles and consolidated PDF and Excel reports supported programme oversight.

Results: Digital Reach and Stronger Programme Visibility

KPI 1 - FoodBev learner record coverage

Baseline: 0 FoodBev learner records in OLUMS before implementation. Target: digitally register all learner records supplied for the programme. Actual: 361 learner records represented in the retained audit report. Method: count the sequential learner references in Table 2.1 of the FoodBev programme report.

KPI 2 - Payroll schedule traceability

Baseline: 0 FoodBev payroll batches approved through OLUMS. Target: 100% of the April 2023 portal-approved schedule set traceable to learner payment entries. Actual: 14 batches covering 245 payment entries and R857,500. Method: sum the batch count, intern count and payment values in Table 3.1.



A governed AWS environment for learner funding and workplace evidence

The SACPO service operated within governed OLUMS AWS production infrastructure designed to support secure, reliable and traceable grant-management workflows. Application workloads ran on Amazon EC2 behind an Application Load Balancer, which distributed incoming user traffic across the application environment and supported consistent service availability. Amazon RDS stored structured learner, programme, funding and workflow data, while Amazon S3 retained supporting documents, portfolios of evidence, generated reports and other programme-related files.

Amazon VPC controls separated the public-facing, application and data tiers, limiting unnecessary communication between platform components and reducing infrastructure exposure. AWS WAF protected the public application path against common web-based threats. AWS KMS supported encryption controls, while AWS CloudTrail maintained records of relevant AWS account activity. Amazon GuardDuty, Amazon Inspector and Amazon CloudWatch provided security visibility, vulnerability information, infrastructure monitoring and operational alerts. Controlled application releases used AWS CLI and AWS CodeDeploy to support repeatable deployments and reduce the risk associated with unmanaged production changes.

The architecture connected learners, workplace supervisors, placement officers and grant administrators through a consolidated, role-based operating workflow. Access was aligned with each participant's responsibilities, allowing learner records, attendance information, stipend activity, workplace evidence, approvals and reporting to be managed within the same platform. This reduced dependence on disconnected spreadsheets, paper records and email-based processes while improving traceability, programme monitoring, exception management and the preparation of audit evidence.



Designed for grant transparency and audit-ready evidence

Each learner record linked programme and funding information to attendance, stipend activity, workplace progress, evidence and approvals. Role-based access and timestamped activity histories improved traceability, while consolidated PDF and Excel reports supported reconciliation, exception management and programme oversight.

The retained FoodBev audit report contains 361 learner records and tracks R11,543,000 in stipend value at learner level. It also records 14 portal-approved payroll batches representing 245 learner payment entries and R857,500. Production infrastructure was wound down in December 2024, with reporting and commercial close-out completed by March 2025.



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From Manual Administration to Structured Grant Workflows

The OLUMS portal digitised and connected the principal operating processes required to administer SETA-funded learners. These processes included programme and grant setup, learner registration, workplace and employer records, attendance monitoring, stipend claims, payroll preparation, progress reporting, supporting documentation, portfolio evidence and executive reporting. Instead of maintaining separate spreadsheets, paper registers, email approvals and disconnected learner files, programme information could be managed through a consolidated digital environment.

Role-based workflows provided learners, workplace supervisors and programme administrators with access to the functions relevant to their assigned responsibilities. Learner attendance, stipend activity, supporting evidence, workplace progress and approval actions could be associated with the relevant learner and programme record. This created a more complete operational history and enabled administrators to identify outstanding actions, incomplete information and processing exceptions without relying exclusively on retrospective manual consolidation.

For the retained FoodBev programme report, the platform represented 361 learner records against a total grant allocation of R24,537,240. Learner-level stipend tracking in the report amounted to R11,543,000, providing a detailed record of payments processed online or captured within the system for audit-trail purposes. The report also records 14 portal-approved payroll batches covering 245 learner payment entries with a combined value of R857,500.

These figures were taken directly from the retained FoodBev programme report. The learner total was derived from the sequential learner records in the stipend-tracking schedule, while the payroll figures were calculated from the approved monthly payment-schedule summary. They are presented as verifiable snapshot measures for the reported FoodBev programme and should not be interpreted as lifetime totals across every SACPO grant, learner cohort or programme administered during the broader engagement.

Change Management as a Core Delivery Requirement

The engagement demonstrated that multi-stakeholder grant programmes require clear data ownership, named change champions, role-based onboarding and agreed procedures before launch. Future implementations will establish governance, escalation routes and KPI baselines during mobilisation, then review adoption and exceptions regularly.

Architecture, deployment, acceptance, operational and close-out evidence will be retained before infrastructure is migrated, consolidated or decommissioned.

“We have consistently found OLUMS to be professional, reliable, and highly competent in their field.”

Neo Matsena

Chief Executive Officer

**South African Public
Colleges Organisation**